

On Monday, U.S. Representative Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) released the following statement regarding today's report of safety concerns with the Lockport lock.

"Today's news regarding the condition of Illinois' waterways system is a reminder that we must adequately fund our state and nation's infrastructure - our safety and economic prosperity depends on it.

"Part of my support for the economic recovery bill rested on the fact it contains over \$4.4 billion for repair and upgrades to the waterways system - a good start, but it is clear we must fight to fully fund upgrades to locks and dams along the Des Plaines, Illinois, and Mississippi rivers, as well as others. Upgrades have been authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and I will fight for adequate appropriations to assure the safety and economic vitality of our local communities.

"When I met with Secretary of Transportation LaHood earlier this month, I discussed the matter of waterways funding with him. Both of us agreed we must fully address the needs of our waterways system. As the Chicago Tribune indicated, Joliet would be severely impacted by a failure of the Lockport lock. I am committed to working with the administration, Secretary LaHood and others in Congress to address the conditions of locks, dams and levees throughout Illinois.

"Tomorrow, I will be meeting with a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers in my office in Washington, DC. We will discuss how we can move forward to ensure local communities' safety through adequate levels of waterways funding.